

Can social work afford to remain
apolitical in the age of **neoliberalism**
and **managerialism** discourse at the
expense of **social justice**, challenging
inequalities and **empowerment** of its
recipients: Dilemmas and
considerations for **North** and **South**
global worlds.

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SOCIAL WORK HISTORY

Advocates Principles and Values of:

- Human rights.
- Social justice.
- Tackling inequalities
- Empowering individuals and communities
- Liberating them to enhance wellbeing
- Enabling interactions with economic, political and social environments.

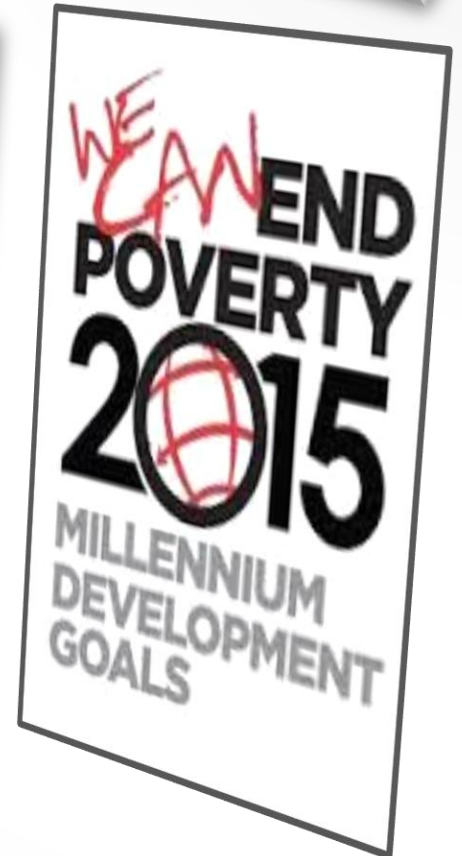
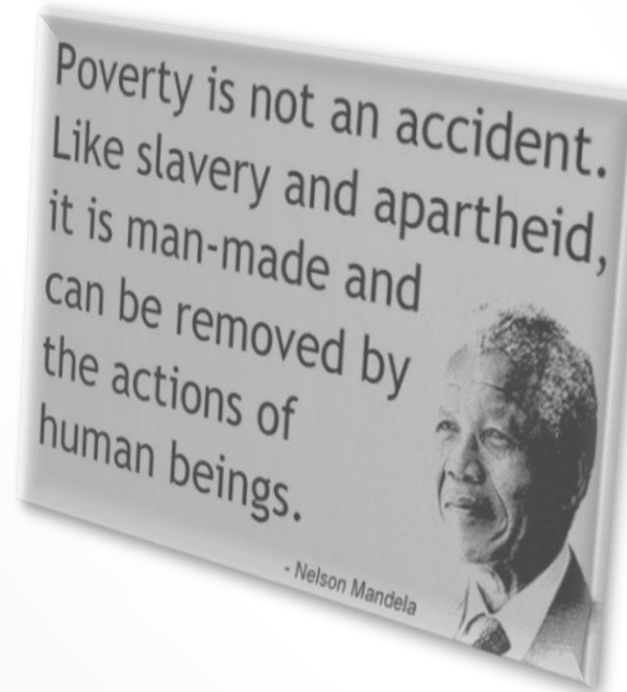
(IESW | ASSW, 2001, 2014)

RISE OF NEOLIBERALISM



Neoliberalism discourse has thwarted and sucked social work into its unsympathetic discourse at the detriment of social work recipients who continue to live in relative and absolute poverty in both worlds.

(Rogowski, 2011, Ferguson, 2004, Sewpaul, 2013, Siddiqui, 2012, Harlow et al, 2012, Haque, 2008, Brady, et al, 2014)

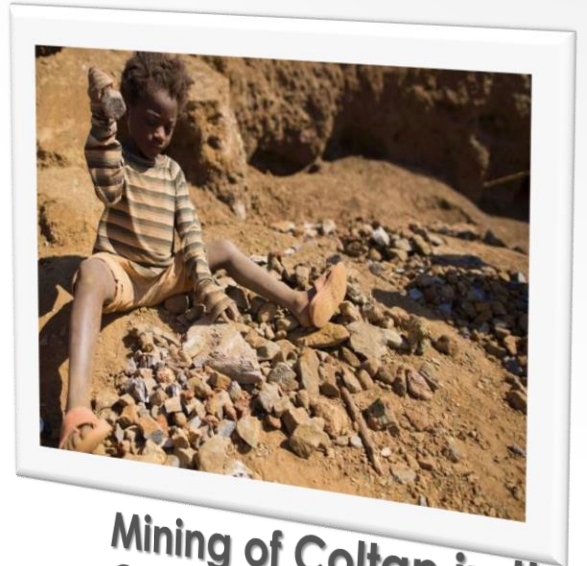


UN MDG ADVOCACY GROUP, 2015

RISE OF NEOLIBERALISM

- Societal shift post collapse of communism
- Individualism from collectivism.
- Digital revolution.
- Globalisation.
- Wars and forced migration.
- Reduction of state size and influence.
- Lower taxation rates.
- Free markets and trade best achieve human well being.

Harvey, 2010 cited in Spolander et al, 2014,
Harlow et al, 2012, Rogowski, 2011



Mining of Coltan in the Congo



British soldiers in Iraq



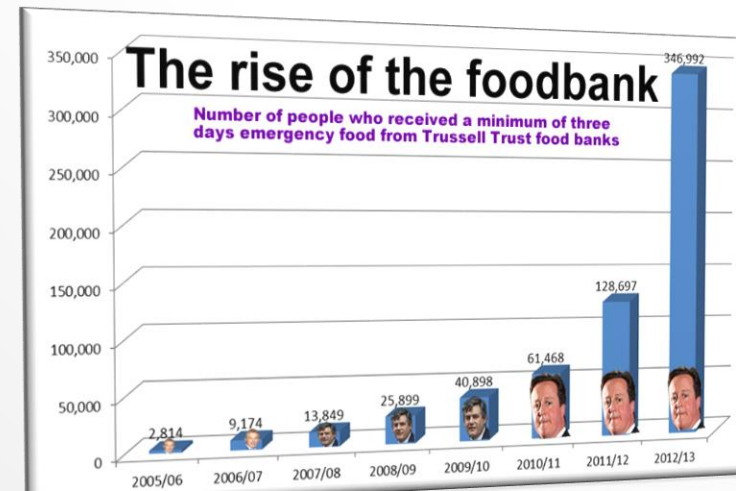
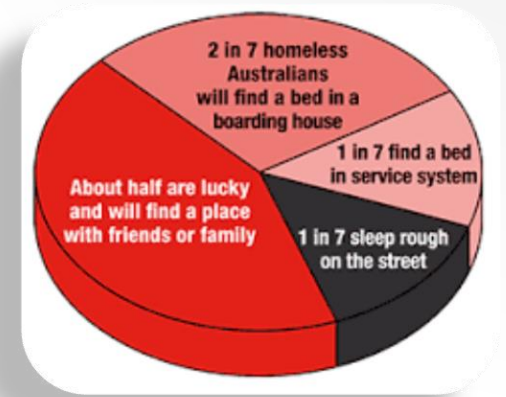
Occupy Wall Street, 2011

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK

- How can social work in both global worlds engage effectively in radical social justice and mobilise itself as a powerful profession which challenges the status quo? (Mullay, 2007, Ritzer, 2008 cited in Brady et al, 2014, p 37, Blok, 2012, Sewpaul), 2013, Ferguson, 2004,

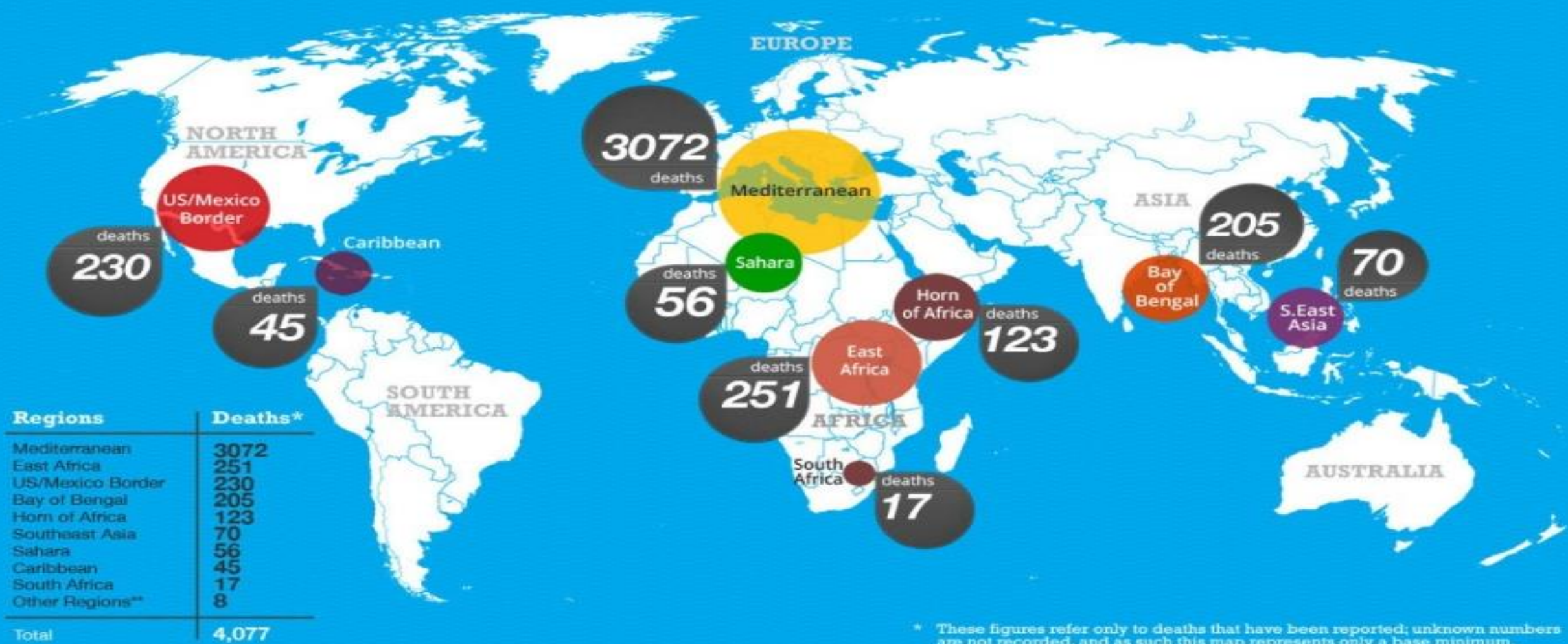


Pollution in China



THE MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

Migrant Deaths on World Borders, Jan-Sept 2014



* These figures refer only to deaths that have been reported; unknown numbers are not recorded, and as such this map represents only a base minimum.

** This refers to deaths that occurred in Europe other than the Mediterranean (7) and India (1). Although deaths are occurring in Central America, non-disaggregated data makes it difficult to isolate migration-related deaths.

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity. It involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them.

Human trafficking is a
\$32-billion
industry worldwide.

The United Nations estimates that between 800,000 and 4 million men, women and children are deceived, recruited, transported from their homes and sold into slavery around the world each year.

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117,000

people are made victims of human trafficking on average in Ukraine every year.

Moldova	57,000
Romania	28,000
Belarus	14,000
Bulgaria	9,500

Human Trafficking Cases

Sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most common forms of human trafficking in the world.



20%

human trafficking cases involve the labour industry.



80%

human trafficking cases involve the sex industry.



The Numbers of Sexual Trafficking in The World.

Resources : http://articles.cnn.com/2009-02-16/world/un.trafficking_1_human-trafficking-women-and-girls-camel-jockeys?_s=PM:WORLD

CHALLENGES: CHILD LABOUR



NEOLIBERALISM & MANAGERIALISM

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Neoliberalism provides stability and support to societal systems.
- Market based economies valuing competition, profit and efficiency.
- Economic liberalisation and dismantling of the welfare state.
- Freedom of investment, capital flows & freedom of all goods and services.

Ferguson, 2004, 2008, Smith, 2012



ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Promotes economic inequality, dependency, and individualistic values.
- Restricts community organisation and social change (Choudry & Shragge, 2011, Pyles, 2010 cited in Brady et al, 2014, p 37).
- Reduction of labour unions -synonymous with social change.
- Does not consider impact on the disadvantaged and the poor.
- Does not allow free movement of human labour leading into draconian immigration laws (Ferguson, 2004)
- Promotes dependency on government for support, while discouraging people from challenging the unjust system(s) leading to their dependency (Mullaly, 2007, cited in Brady et al, 2014, p 36).

CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL NORTH

- Dwindling community work, socialist collectivist & poverty reduction initiatives of the 1950s, 60s, 70s to the 1990s.
- Demographic changes
- Impact of austerity Measures & government deficit
- Rise of managerialism
- Limited role of family
- Diminishing Welfare provision
- Fragmented profession

(Ferguson, 2008, Harlow et al, 2012, Harlow, 2008, Brady, et al, 2014, Rogowski, 2011, Smith, 1996 & 2006, Craig, 2014)

GLOBAL NORTH CHALLENGES

IFSW, 2014, IASSW,
2001, 2004

Human
Rights

Promotes Social Change
Liberates People

Agent for change
and Reform

Promotes interactions with
economic, political and
Social Environment.

Austerity

Bureaucratic
Lipsky, 2010

Gatekeeping

Rationing,
Safeguarding
Jones, 2014

Perpetuates Welfare
Dependence

Agents of the State

SOCIAL WORK-UK

CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOUTH

- Dependency on export of raw materials
- Enormous brain drain-economic and social impact.
- Current scramble of natural resources.
- Conflict and wars
- Impact of IMF, World Bank & WTO policies(SAP).
- Lack of Government leadership in meaningful poverty eradication policies.
- Impact of climate change.

(Mbeki, 2009 cited in Spitzer et al, 2014, p 44)

GLOBAL SOUTH CHALLENGES



- ✓ De-industrialisation- high unemployment.
- ✓ Co-operatives increased in era of socialism.
- ✓ Cuts in health, education & public sector including infrastructure
- ✓ Limited government policy on poverty eradication/welfare provision.

(Schwettmann, 2011, Westoby, 2014, Mbeki, 2009 cited in Spitzer et al, 2014, p 44)

- ✓ Majority of rural populations & Urban infrastructure.

- ✓ Development of community abilities to contribute to social and economic development-**Capacity Building & civil society**
- ✓ Limited income through taxation.

- ✓ Limited government spending on most infrastructure. Haque, 2008

Impact of Austerity.....

Social Policy Triangle

Adapted from Dickens, 2010

Welfare
What Level should be provided?

Responsibility
Rights vs
Responsibility?

Economy
Can everybody
contribute?

CHALLENGES.....



- Complex structural factors that cause or exacerbate poverty- **Macro level.**
- Social Work profession fragmented in each continent.
- Individual countries have different welfare regimes and priorities.
- How do we create a unified social work voice that reflects its definition in both worlds.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.....

How do we :

- Challenge welfare systems of the global north that encourages dependency and demonise recipients without significantly changing people's social and economic circumstances.
- Challenge the complacency in poverty eradication and meaningful practices by global south states while recognising the needs of both urban and rural recipient's post-colonial era.
- Mobilise social work recipients to challenge the unjust systems and practices globally that reinforces inequalities.
- Manage the impact of the deprofessionalisation of social work and the importance of the profession to remobilise itself as a meaningful agent of social change and offer meaningful critical social work globally. (Stepney, 2006)

CONCLUDING REMARKS.....



Clear evidence that the rise of Neoliberalism have adversely affected:

1. *Citizens rights or entitlements to basic services.*
2. *Minimal living standards, social equality, political power and intergenerational justice.*
3. *A reversal of progress made in establishing democratic citizenship post war period. (Haque, 2008)*

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